

BIG SPRING HERALD

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 55

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

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50 CENTS DAILY/\$1.25 WEEKEND



INSIDE
Howard's Hawks extend winning streak to 20

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More Hispanics completing higher education

Number completing undergraduate and certificate programs increases 47 percent during past five years

AUSTIN (AP) — A record number of Hispanics earned degrees and certificates at Texas colleges and universities in 2005, according to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The board reported Thursday that the number of Hispanics completing undergraduate

degree and certificate programs increased 47 percent during the past five years — from 21,087 in the fall 2000 to 31,091 in the fall 2005.

Officials said they'd like to see the number of degreed Hispanics continue to rise. Hispanics make up the state's fastest-growing ethnic group,

and education is key to earning income, they said.

"It's good to see the increase, but it should be higher," said David Gardner, the board's assistant commissioner for academic excellence and research. "The base was low to begin with."

Officials attributed the

growth partly to the fact that more Hispanics are attending the state's four-year colleges and universities. Many of those students start out at community colleges.

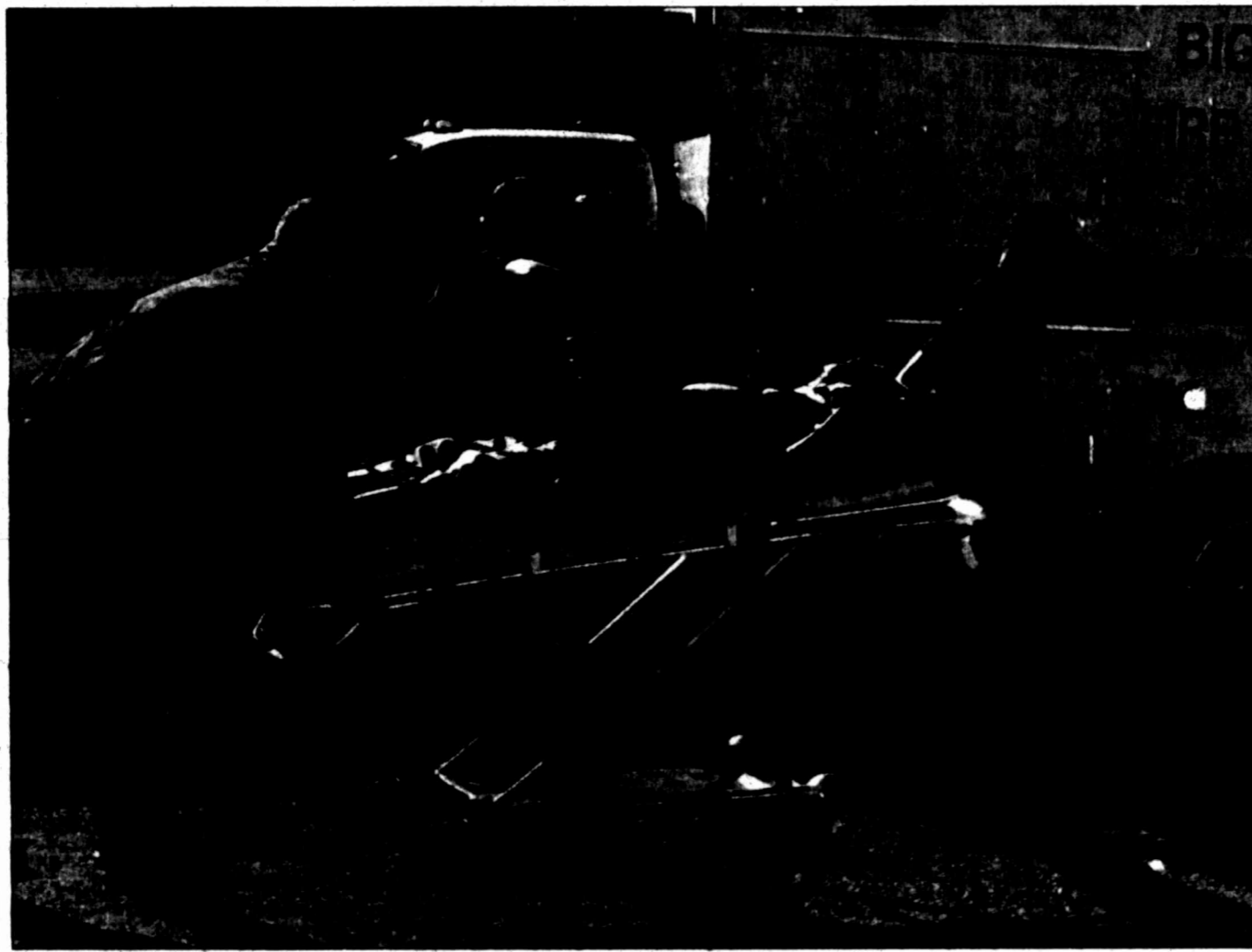
The coordinating board reported that the percentage of Hispanics receiving associate degrees and certificates award-

ed by two-year colleges has grown twice as fast as the percentage of those earning bachelor's degrees at four-year institutions.

Steve Murdock, the state's demographer and a professor at the University of Texas at San

See **HISPANICS**, Page 3A

PEDESTRIAN STRUCK



HERALD photo/Thomas Jenkins

Emergency responders prepare 82-year-old Ellihue Megers for transportation to the emergency room at Scenic Mountain Medical Center Thursday following a vehicle/pedestrian accident on Anna Street, near the 2900 block of Highway 80. According to officers at the scene, a woman traveling south on Anna hit the man while traveling around a curve in the road. A medical condition for Megers was unavailable at press time.

Something to grin about

'Report card' shows BSISD doing well in most areas, trustees hear Thursday night

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Like a proud student, officials showed off the Big Spring Independent School District report card during Thursday night's school board meeting.

The district's 2004-05 Academic Excellence Indicator System report monitors how the district did in a variety of academic, administrative and financial areas.

And Assistant Superintendent Rey Villarreal said the district did well in most areas.

Among the highlights of BSISD's report card:

- Academics — The district maintained its rating of Academically Acceptable from the previous school year. Individual campuses also



Villarreal

were rated Academically Acceptable, with the exception of Bauer Magnet and Moss Elementary, which were higher rating

of Recognized.

Results from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) standardized tests showed across-the-board improvement from the previous school year, although some problem areas remain, Villarreal said.

"Our TAKS math scores in grades 7 and 8 continue to be weak ... and our science scores also are relatively weak," he told trustees. "These are areas we will continue to work

See **BSISD**, Page 3A

Proposed early start to school year draws some opposition

By **STEVE REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Big Spring school trustees learned Thursday night that not everybody thinks an early start to the school year is a good thing.

Five people registered objections to the school district's plans to start the next school

year a week earlier during the trustees' meeting Thursday night in the high school board room.

School officials recently announced their intention to begin the 2006-07 school year Aug. 14, a week earlier than the state recommends.

Starting the year at the early date would allow the district to

balance the number of school days in each semester and allow for the end of the first semester by Christmas break.

"It would also allow us some more days for holidays that we couldn't take this year because we were so busy trying to squeeze school days in," said Big Spring ISD Superintendent Michael Downes.

However, some residents believe the early start date to be a bad idea.

Aubrey Weaver Jr., drawing on information from a report from the Texas Comptroller's office, believes BSISD and other school districts would save money in utility costs by starting the school year around Labor Day.

The problem with Weaver's idea, said Board President Irene Bustamanté, is that the state mandates districts to have 180 instruction days during the year, so either schools open in the heat of August or end the year in the heat of June.

"It would crunch up our cal-

See **EARLY START**, Page 3A

City signs off on \$150,000 grant for Moss Lake

By **THOMAS JENKINS**
Staff Writer

The Big Spring City Council gave final approval to a resolution this week, accepting a \$150,000 grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for improvements to the city's Moss Lake facility.

The grant, which was awarded by Texas Parks and Wildlife in September, represents a chance for the city to expand the type of recreational activities supported by the lake facility, including the addition of several off-road vehicle trails and tracks.

"We're turning what we first thought would be a small part of the facility into a project that will give us full utilization of our facilities and a place for our patrons to come and enjoy."



Darden

Todd Darden, director of public works, said he expects to see the project — which must be preceded by several studies — get under way in the next couple of weeks.

"The staff will be contacting Texas Parks and Wildlife in the next week or so to set up a site

visit," said Darden. "They will give us an outline of the different procedures that need to be followed during the grant process. We'll sort of have a kick-off project meeting with the state to make sure the city follows all of the

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HERE, TAKE MY CARD

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — The business cards got a response, but surely not what their owner had in mind. Police said they heard Sylvester J. Williams, 21, of Leavenworth, was selling drugs. Then, they got an unexpected tip. "Then we heard that he was handing out business cards," Maj. Patrick Kitchens said. "In the course of our investigation we came up with one, and we gave him a call." Williams was charged with possessing crack cocaine with the intent to sell. "It makes our job considerably easier when they advertise and let us know where to get ahold of them," Kitchens said.

COMING THIS WEEKEND

Joe Montana Football legend — Legendary quarterback Joe Montana discusses his Super Bowl memories, as well as how he's adjusted to life after football. He shares his secrets to success on the field in his new book, "The Winning Spirit: 16 Timeless Principles that Drive Performance Excellence."

TxDOT PUBLIC MEETING

The Abilene District of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public meeting to gather input from the public on the proposed truck relief route west of Big Spring from U.S. Highway 87 North to U.S. Highway 87 South. The meeting will be held at the Dora Roberts Civic Center, 100 Whipkey Drive, Tuesday, Feb. 7. Registration will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Input gathered at the meeting will be used along with TxDOT design, and environmental criteria to develop an alignment for a future public meeting.

Obituaries

Inez Margaret Thurman



Inez Margaret Thurman, 90, a homemaker, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006, in Arlington.
Funeral services are Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at 11 a.m. at Wade Family Funeral Home Chapel in Arlington. Graveside services are Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Memorial Park.
The family will receive friends Saturday from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Wade Family Funeral Home.

Inez was born June 12, 1915, to Irvin and Lois Head in Konawa, Okla. She raised her family in Big Spring and moved to Venus, then moved to Arlington two and one half years ago. Inez enjoyed crocheting and baking.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Joe Ben Thurman, sons, Marion Lee Thurman and James I. Thurman, three brothers and two sisters.

She will be dearly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include daughter, Peggy Henson and husband, Lynn of Arlington; sons Carl Wayne Thurman and wife, Jean and Bobby E. Thurman and wife, Ethel; sister, Goldie Anderson; grandchildren, Becky Hinkle, Diana Evans, Bryan Thurman, Lawrence Thurman, Pat Thurman and Tina Guzman; six great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of Wade Family Funeral Home in Arlington.

Paid obituary

William 'Bill' Winters



William "Bill" Winters, 73, of Big Spring died Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, in a local hospital. Funeral services are 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at the Nalley-Pickle & Welch Rosewood Chapel with the Rev. Mark Winn, pastor of Sand Springs Baptist Church, officiating. Interment will follow at Trinity Memorial Park.
The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. today at the funeral home.

He was born May 25, 1932, in Big Spring. He was a lifelong resident of the community and had farmed in the Vincent Community for 30 years. He was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willis and Fern Winters.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, William Bryan and Annie Winters of Big Spring; two daughters and one son-in-law, Susan and Joe Roszell of Neosho, Mo., and Spring Baldrige of Dallas; one brother and sister-in-law, Willis and Patty Winters of Plainview; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family suggest memorials be made to Big Spring Humane Society, P.O. Box 823, Big Spring 79721-0823.

Arrangements under the direction of Nalley-Pickle & Welch Funeral Home & Crematory of Big Spring. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Lela Faye Carnes

Lela Faye Carnes, 93, of Odessa, formerly of Big Spring, died Jan. 23, 2006, in Odessa. Graveside services were 2 p.m. today, Jan. 27, 2006, at the Bomar Point Cemetery in Wilson, Okla.

She was born Dec. 17, 1912, in Healdton, Okla., to Albert Simeon and Mary Laura Dunn Venters. She married Pryor Carnes July 22, 1934, in Ardmore, Okla. They moved to Big Spring and owned and operated a convenience store until her retirement in Big Spring.

She was preceded in death by her husband, two brothers, John and Harley Venters and two sisters, Bessie Williams and Ruby Edwards.

She is survived by one sister, Lela (Pug) Maness of Odessa; two nieces; a nephew; and a sister-in-law, Vera Carnes Jackson of Kingston, Okla.

Arrangements were under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home in Healdton, Okla.

Virgie Johnson



Virgie Johnson, 92, of Stanton, died Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006, in a Midland Hospital. Funeral services are 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2006, at the First Baptist Church in Stanton with the Rev. David Harp officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery.

She was born March 9, 1913, in Fairchilds. She moved to Stanton in 1947 and worked in a dry cleaning business, retiring in 1976. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Otto Arthur and Allie Belle Schuelke, one sister, Etta Mae Robertson and six brothers, Fred, Otto, Herbert, Clarence, Earl and Arthur Schuelke.

Survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, Albert and Dutchie Johnson of Stanton and David Sidney Johnson of Midland; two daughters and a son-in-law, Mary Belle Keaton and Nancy Carroll and Bill Swink, all of Stanton; one brother and a sister-in-law, Cecil and Louise Schuelke of Midland; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Pauline Schuelke of Ackerly and Frankie Schuelke of Independence, Mo.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorial made to the Martin County Senior Citizens, P.O. Box 1233, Stanton 79782 or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo 79174 or to the First Baptist Church of Stanton, P.O. Box 1168, Stanton 79782.

Arrangements under the direction of Gilbreath Funeral Home of Stanton. Online condolences can be made at www.npwelch.com.

Clara Ferguson



Clara Ferguson, 69, of Big Spring died Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2006, at her residence following a long illness. Funeral services are 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at Myers & Smith Chapel with the Rev. Matt Miles, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, officiating. Burial will be at Mount Olive Memorial Park.

She was born April 18, 1936, in San Saba County. She had been a resident of Big Spring for almost 50 years, coming from Odessa. She taught in Odessa for several years and then several years at Airport Elementary in Big Spring before her marriage to John Ferguson July 22, 1967, in Big Spring. She was a member of First Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, John T. Ferguson of Big Spring; one son, Scott Ferguson and his wife, Katy of El Paso; one daughter, Pamela Ferguson of Lubbock; three sisters, Lola Fae Mask of Richland Springs, Leta Rae Taylor of Locker and Bobbie Petty of Brady; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to the Big Spring Area Community Foundation, 401 Austin, Suite 103, Big Spring 79720 or to the Alzheimer's Association, Greater West Texas Chapter, 4400 N. Big Spring, Suite C32, Midland 79705.

Arrangements are by Myers & Smith Funeral Home. Pay your respects online at myersandsmith.com.

Around Town

• **BEAUTY IN BIG SPRING AT THE HERITAGE MUSEUM**, 510 Scurry, is set for 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4. The new exhibit features barber, shoe shine and hair demonstrations at the opening, along with spa techniques from Uptown Salon and Day Spa. Register to win a full spa giveaway. The exhibit will be on display through April 16. Heritage Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. An admission fee, which includes entry into the Potton House, is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM** is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Take note

• **VALENTINE'S DAY CAKES** available from the Relay For Life Yellow Dog Dare Devils team. Delivery available. Eight-inch cakes are \$5 and 5-inch cakes are \$3.50. Call Angel Sosa at 264-4108 or Georgia Torres at 267-1312.

• **FOURTH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE RASCAL RAZZMATAZZ** applications being accepted through Feb. 13. The event is 10 a.m. Feb. 18 in the Big Spring Municipal Auditorium. Entry forms are available at the Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce.

• **AARP TAX PREPARATION** will be available at the Senior Center every Monday from 8 a.m. until noon beginning Monday. The AARP program will wrap-up for the year April 10. Electronic filing will be available. For more information on the program, contact Gloria Hopkins at 267-6733.

• **CRIMSON SOUL** in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Cowboy's Steakhouse, Bean's World Cafe and at the door.

• **HANGAR 25 AIR MUSEUM IS COLLECTING RECIPES** to be included in a 2006 cookbook which will display memories of Big Spring over the years. Share your memories and your recipes. Contact the Hangar at 264-1999 for recipe forms.

Police blotter

The Big Spring Police Department reported the following activity between 8 a.m. Thursday and 8 a.m. today:

- **SUZANNE IRVAN**, 27, of 2636 Langley, was arrested Thursday on a charge of driving while license invalid.
- **HENRY RODRIGUEZ**, 38, of Midland, was arrested Thursday on an Austin parole warrant and a charge of failure to identify as a fugitive from justice.
- **OLEGARIO MELENDEZ JR.**, 18, of 821 W. Seventh Street, was arrested Thursday on charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of a prohibited weapon.
- **ROBERT SANCHEZ**, 41, of Colorado City, was arrested Thursday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **JESSE GARCIA**, 50, of 811 N. Goliad, was arrested Friday on a charge of public intoxication.
- **POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** was reported in the 100 block of Gregg Street.
- **FAILURE TO IDENTIFY - GIVING FALSE INFORMATION** was reported in the 500 block of 15th Street.
- **BURGLARY OF A BUILDING** was reported in the 200 block of Runnels.

Sheriff's report

The Howard County Sheriff's Office reported the following activity:

- **DAVID LYNN DOW**, 22, was transferred to the county jail Thursday by the BSPD on a charge of resisting arrest, search or transportation.
- **JIMMY CASTRO NARANJO**, 33, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of failure to appear for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver - methamphetamine.
- **CLINTON ROYCE JOINER**, 22, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of false drug test-falsification device.
- **KYLE MARKEM SHELLITO JR.**, 20, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on warrant for violation of probation and a charge of possession of a controlled substance.
- **JAMES WAYNE HINES**, 24, was arrested Thursday by the HCSO on a charge of driving while license invalid.

Fire/EMS

The Big Spring Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services reported the following activity:

- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 100 block of Jonesboro. One person was transported to SM MC.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 2000 block of Alabama. Service was refused.
- **TRAUMA** was reported in the 900 block of Anna. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 200 block of Pettus. One person was transported to the VAMC.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1900 block of North Highway 87. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT** was reported in the 500 block of Birdwell Lane. Service was refused.
- **MEDICAL** was reported in the 1000 block of Nolan. One person was transported to SMMC.
- **GRASS FIRE** was reported in the 500 block of Dallas.

Weather

Today...Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph.

Tonight...Mostly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds around 15 Mph.

Saturday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night...Mostly clear. Colder. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds around 10 mph.

Sunday...Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s. West winds 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday night...Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Lottery

The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery: 6-13-24-36-37

The winning Texas Two Step numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery: 17-18-20-28. Bonus ball 14.

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday night by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-6-8

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SPIRIT-FILLED RENEWAL
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~ JAN. 27-28-29 ~

+ A SPIRITUAL FEAST FROM THE LORD'S TABLE. Anointed speakers all the way from northern Canada proclaiming the Word with power. People expected from several states provinces. IT'S GOING TO BE WONDERFUL!

FRI. 8 pm - SAT./SUN. 10 am & 7 pm

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EARLY START

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endar a lot," Bustamante said. "We'd have to go into June, and

we have a lot of parents who don't want us to do that."

Tonya Spence, a divorced mother of two, said the new calendar would be discriminatory toward parents who share custody of their children.

Under the standard custody order in Texas, Spence said, divorced parents are each granted six weeks custody in summer.

An early start to the school year, she added, would unfairly

impact one of the parents, as well as the children.

Downes was impressed with the public comments, particularly with Spence's arguments.

"That was a new issue that had not been presented to the

district in the past," he said.

Downes said the comments would be included when the district formally requests the early start date from the Texas Education Agency later this year.

BSISD

Continued from Page 1A

on to improve." Standardized testing of special education students also showed improvement, with an overall passage rate in the 80th percentile.

Attendance and graduation — Figures show that the district had an average daily attendance rate of 94.7 percent, which was unchanged from the

previous year. This figure lags slightly behind the state average of 95.7 percent.

District completion figures — the number of students who either graduated or obtained a GED — were improved over previous numbers.

The annual dropout rate for grades 7 through 12 dropped from 1.5 percent to 0.6 percent, while the completion rate rose from 94.2 percent to 95.8 percent, Villarreal noted.

Those latest figures

almost bring BSISD up to the state average of 96.1 percent.

College preparatory — Villarreal said 17.2 percent of BSISD students took advanced courses in 2004-05, an increase from the previous year.

Scores from college entrance exams also increased.

More than 50 percent of 2004-05's seniors took either the SAT or ACT college entrance exams. The average SAT score was 1,075 (compared to

the state average of 987), while the average ACT score was 20.9 (compared to 20.1 statewide).

Ethnicity — Figures show that 51.9 percent of district students are Hispanic, compared to 39.7 white and 7.3 percent African-American.

Violent and criminal incidents — The district reported a marked decrease in the number of controlled substance offenses that occurred on BSISD campuses in 2004-05.

Villarreal said 30 incidents involving illegal drugs were reported last school year, a decrease from 53 in 2003-04.

Superintendent Michael Downes said there were three reasons for the decrease: Implementation of a drug education program at the secondary campuses; daily patrol of campuses by Big Spring Police Department drug dogs; and drug testing for students involved in competitive extra-curricular activities.

Other violent or criminal incidents at BSISD campuses in 2004-05 included two felonies, two assaults, 13 reports of fighting and four incidents involving firearm possession.

GRANT

Continued from Page 1A

steps they require for these type of grants.

"It will start with the archeological, historical and environmental studies and get their ideas on the best way to pursue those projects. They have

a list of contacts for us to utilize, which includes people who have worked in this area and would have experience in helping us deal with those issues."

Darden said the scope of the project has changed immensely since the idea to install an all-terrain vehicle course at the lake

facility first came about.

"The way this was first envisioned, it would be an area on the southwest quadrant that would be designated for these activities," said Darden.

"However, after meeting with our consultant, Larry Wilham of Texas Parks and Wildlife, this project has grown to

encompass the whole lake.

"We're turning what we first thought would be a small part of the facility into a project that will give us full utilization of our facilities and a place for our patrons to come

and enjoy."

Darden said the city will be responsible for 20 percent of the project, which is estimated to cost \$180,000, with construction beginning as early as this summer — depending on the studies.

HISPANICS

Continued from Page 1A

Antonio, said the level of education is the best predictor of income.

According to the most recent data, 35 percent of white Texans had a college degree, while less than 9 percent of Latinos had one.

"It's a clear need that our non-Anglo students be competitive," Murdock said.

Eric Gonzales, A University of Houston student who expects to graduate this spring with an economics degree, said he's not surprised more Hispanics are working toward degrees.

"I know once I get my degree I'll have career

options," he said. "I won't be limited and forced to take something I don't want."

Statewide, white students still continue to graduate in greater numbers. About 60 percent earn a bachelor's degree within six years of starting college, while Hispanics had a graduation rate of 40 percent and blacks roughly 35 percent.

Church News

East Fourth Street Baptist Church

Sunday school starts at 9:45 a.m. for all age groups and the worship service starts at 11 a.m. Acteens, Challengers, Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, Mission Friends and Mission Babies are offered for children and youth of all ages Sunday nights at 5. Choir practice begins Sunday night at 5. The evening service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Bible study is offered for youth and adults at 7 pm.

The church is located at 401 E. Fourth. For more information call Amy at 267-2291.

YoungLife

YoungLife Banquet is Feb. 27. Table hosts are needed. Call Shelly Warren, area director, at 213-4819.

Coahoma United Methodist Church

Teen Challenge members, led by Charles Harrington are the special guests Sunday at 11

a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. Sunday is Youth Sunday and Youth Minister Jason Archuleta and the United Methodist Youth Fellowship will conduct worship. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m. The Centered in Praise Ensemble meets at 3 p.m. Rehearsals for the Children's Musical are Sunday afternoons from 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Joint Area Methodist Worship is at 6 p.m. at the North Birdwell Lane United Methodist Church featuring the Rev. Rick Doyle, pastor of Means Memorial United Methodist Church in Andrews. Junior high youth meet at 5:30 p.m. and Senior high youth meet at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Partee Building.

Extreme Spiritual Makeover Heart Edition Ladies Retreat is scheduled for Feb. 3-4 at Butman Methodist Camp in Merkel.

Monday nights the

Family/Parish Life Committee meets at 5:30 p.m. and the Open Door Class Fun Night is at 7 p.m. Tuesdays Kid's Club is from 3:30 p.m. until 5:15 p.m. and the Disciple I Class meets at 6:45 p.m. Wednesdays begin with Children's Day Out at 9 a.m., Lunch/Bible study is at noon and Hispanic Ministry has Bible studies at 6 p.m. in the Men's Bible Class.

Also, Wednesdays is handbell practice at 6 p.m., Combined Youth Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. and Chancel Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. Thursday

Morning Women's Bible Study is at 9 a.m. and Thursday Night Women's Bible Study meets at 6 p.m. Special prayer times are observed in the chapel Thursday at noon and Friday at 7 a.m.

First United Methodist Church is located at 400 Scurry.

For more information on any of these programs, call the church office at 267-6394.

See Church News Page 5A

Club News

TOPS TX 21

Fifteen members of Take Off Pounds Sensibly TOPS TX 21 met at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center, 306 W. Third, with leader Hughetta Roberts presiding and voicing the opening prayer.

Both TOPS and Keep Off Pounds Sensibly (KOPS) pledges were recited and members joined in singing the fellowship song.

Wanda Lee read "The Blessings You Give" and

Carol Smith read "The Courage to Change." Smith presented the program "Why are Sweets So Seductive?"

Genay Bertran called the roll with members answering with their loss or gain for the week. Duffy Yancey was the best loser of the eight TOPS present and Cherry Sechelski was the best loser of the seven KOPS present.

For more information about TOPS, call 1-800-392-8677 or locally 263-0391 or 262-1758.

Let's Go Dancin' At The Eagles! 803 W. 3rd 263-6862 Saturday Night January 27, 2006 • 8:30 pm - 12:30 am BILLY LIGHT EAGLES BINGO: Sunday, Wednesday & Friday 806 E. 3rd

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL 24th & Johnson 267-8288 Leslie McMullen, 51, died Wednesday. Funeral services will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park. Clara Ferguson, 69, died Thursday. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

RITZ 401 S. Main 263-7480 Movie Hot Line: 263-2479 Showtimes For 1/20 - 1/26 Adult Admission: \$6.00 Child, Senior, Matinee: \$4.00 DLP Adult Admission: \$7.00 DLP Child, Senior, Matinee: \$5.00 *Underworld: Evolution (R) Daily: 7:00, 9:20 Sat. & Sun. 4:40 Hostel (R) Daily: 7:10, 9:10 Sat. & Sun. 4:50

CINEMA 4 Casanova (R) Daily: 4:30, 7:10 Fri. 9:30 Sat. & Sun. 1:40 Hoodwinked (PG) Daily: 4:50, 7:30 Fri. 9:20 Sat. & Sun. 2:00 Fun with Dick and Jane (PG-13) Daily: 4:40, 7:20 Fri. 9:50 Sat. & Sun. 1:50 Chronicles of Narnia (PG) Daily: 4:20, 7:00 Fri. 9:40 Sat. & Sun. 1:30 ADULTS: \$6.00 \$4.00 ALL M' TINEES, CHILDREN & SENIOR CITIZENS *PASS RESTRICTED



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EDITORIAL

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-FIRST AMENDMENT

Opinions expressed on this page are those of the Editorial Board of the Big Spring Herald unless otherwise indicated.

Susanne Reed
Publisher

John A. Moseley
Managing Editor

Bill McClellan
News Editor

OUR VIEWS

We salute:

Each week, the Herald salutes individuals and groups from our community and area who have been recognized for special achievements or accomplishments.

We recognize these special people for working to help make our region a better place to live, work and play

This week we salute:

- Big Spring's Harley Davidson Shop on the latest Boss Hogg Chili Cookoff, and to all the winners, entrants and judges. It's always a fun event. Even better, some local organization benefits!

- Everyone, and there were bunches of you, who took part in the Howard County Junior Livestock Show last weekend, from the organizers to the students to the parents and the buyers. You did a great job. Our hats go off too, to the many people 20 miles to the west, who put together another fine Martin County Junior Livestock Show the same weekend.

- Debbye ValVerde, Big Spring Area Chamber of Commerce executive director, who graduated from Institute for Organization Management, a four-year professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

- The Big Spring High School Cross-Examination Debate Team of William Shipman and Logan Wright, who continued a five-year string of debate excellence at Big Spring High School by placing first at the Cross Examination district meet. Also, the team of LeAnn Brumley and Malle Carrasco placed third.

- Big Spring, Coahoma and Forsan school districts, who all reported across-the-board improvements in their Academic Excellence Indicator System reports for the 2004-05 school year. The AEIS report — better known as the "district report card" — gauges district performance in a variety of areas.

ADDRESSES

• GEORGE W. BUSH
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

• JOHN CORNYN
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510-4305
Phone: 202-224-2934

• RANDY NEUGEBAUER
U.S. Representative (19th Cong. District)
1510 Scurry
Big Spring
Phone: (432) 264-0722

• RICK PERRY
Governor
State Capitol, Room 2S.1
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, 78711

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Herald is always interested in our readers' opinions. In order that we might better serve your needs, we offer several ways in which you may contact us:

- In person at 710 Scurry St.
- By telephone at 263-7331
- By fax at 264-7205
- By e-mail Managing Editor John A. Moseley at editor@bigspringherald.com or News Editor Bill McClellan at newsdesk@bigspringherald.com.
- By mail at P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721

LETTER POLICIES

- The Herald welcomes letters to the editor.
- Limit your letters to no more than 300 words.
 - Sign your letter.
 - Provide a daytime telephone number, as well as a street address for verification purposes.
 - We reserve the right to edit for style and clarity.
 - We reserve the right to limit publication to one letter per 30-day period per author.
 - Letters that are unsigned or do not include a telephone number or address will not be considered.
 - Letters should be submitted to Editor, Big Spring Herald, P.O. Box 1431, Big Spring, 79721. They can also be e-mailed to editor@bigspringherald.com

Google uses its own type of logic

Google gives life to the Eric Hoffer observation, "People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them."

Google painted itself as heroic in refusing to help the U.S. Department of Justice's efforts to reinstate a 1998 federal law on online child pornography, then revealed that it was going to help the Chinese government suppress free speech. That sort of goes against the company's informal corporate motto, "Don't be evil."



DEBRA SAUNDERS

I realize how eager those in the Bay Area are to believe that the evil Bush administration wants to double as Big Brother and eavesdrop on well-meaning peaceniks. So it doesn't matter that the DOJ isn't looking for information on individual accounts — but instead wanted data on how the Internet is used during a given week to see how adults access child porn.

Personally, I'd be more supportive of the Department of Justice's subpoena if the feds were trying to locate specific individuals — child-porn-aholics — just as I would support a government subpoena for bank accounts used to launder mob money. My issue with the subpoena — and I agree with Google on this — is that it asks for a huge chunk of information to support the government in a civil suit. It's a fishing expedition, in which corporate America provides free research. Yahoo and

Microsoft, however, were able to comply. A Yahoo spokesperson said the company did not release personally identifiable information.

Care about privacy rights? Be it noted that child-porn on the Internet violates children's privacy rights. Still, Google emerged from the controversy as a defender of privacy. Columnist Robert Scheer in Wednesday's *San Francisco Chronicle* duly lauded Google's refusal to comply with the Justice Department's request, as he wrote that the "latest high-tech upstart giant dared to challenge the government's claim of an unbridled right to break into our information-age virtual homes." *The Washington Post's* Eugene Robinson described the subpoena as "more of an Orwellian threat than the National Security Agency's snooping on phone calls and e-mails."

You have to marvel at Google's great marketing ploy. The company amasses founts of information on users of its service. Yet, by riding on the coattails of anti-Bush sentiment, Google claims the mantle of champion of privacy rights. "We intend to resist (the government's) motion vigorously," said a Google lawyer in a statement. All hail Google. The Google-philic fawn as if bashing the Bushies in the Bay Area is an act of courage, when it's the most popular — and probably profitable — thing a company can do.

Meanwhile, back in Beijing, Google has agreed to filter out sites that the Chinese government doesn't like. The Chinese government won't have to rely on its fleet of monitoring devices that block out "subversive" content

from the West, such as information on the Tiananmen Square protest, Tibet and Taiwan. Google will do the dirty work.

The Mountain View, Calif., company will withhold e-mail and blogging services, it says, to protest the Chinese filtering. A Google statement explained that "while removing search results is inconsistent with Google's mission, providing no information" is "more inconsistent."

It may be only a matter of time before Google starts acting like other Internet providers that also censor for China. Last year, Yahoo helped the Chinese government prosecute a dissident reporter. This month, Microsoft shut down a pesky blog. As *The Associated Press* reported, Microsoft's service in China bars such terms as "democracy" and "human rights."

Here's a thought: Google could ban the phrase, "Don't be evil." I understand that Google wants to make a profit. I just don't know how company execs garner the image of little guys standing up to big, bad government.

Google can say no to the Bushies and know that it won't lose any business, its executives won't go to jail and their children will not get run over by tanks. In the country where those things could happen, Google is a collaborator.

E-mail Debra J. Saunders at dsaunders@sfrchronicle.com. To find out more about Debra J. Saunders, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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YOUR VIEWS

Pay until we starve

TO THE EDITOR:
With TXU and others asking for a considerable rate increase, what will poor and old, fixed income, people do? Without?

With the fund that was set aside for help in just such situations gone at the hands of our Texas legislature, we have less and less alternative to starving. If we had such a thing, I would say, "I'll see you in the poor house" but, since we don't have that either, I

guess I'll just say, "I'll see you — wherever — until I starve!"

WILLIAM O. ADAMS
PLANO

Needs help finding father.

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to ask you for assistance in helping myself and my brother locate our father, Jimmie Doyle Woods Sr. I have not had contact with my father since I was 10 years old, and would love to know how he has been. I do know that he

is in the Big Spring/Odessa area and was born Aug. 1, 1931.

If anyone is willing to help, please e-mail me at carriewood@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time.

CARRIE WOODS
GROVETOWN, GA.

The worst in history

TO THE EDITOR:
We must do something to get rid of this president and all those he has appointed. The man is a despot with serial killer tendencies. All our inter-

national policies are in a mess! Our domestic policies have been hammered and the environment is being attacked! Moreover, the national debt has skyrocketed.

Hillary was correct, this is the worst administration on record!

The President should be made to obey the law like anyone else!

Moreover, he should go to jail for having already broken it!

This is the worst administration in history. Just look at their track record.

ROBERT SCHULTZ
LAMESA

White House should play by rules

The Bush campaign in favor of eavesdropping hit the road this week, beginning with the president's speech on Monday in Kansas and television appearances by top aides on all the news shows. Expect to hear that the United States has every right to listen to whatever al-Qaida is saying to Americans by telephone or email. Expect to be told that had we been listening before 9-11 the way we are now, we might have learned of the plot that cost thousands of lives. Expect to learn that a country has every right to protect itself in time of war from the threat of foreign terrorists.

All of which is completely true — and utterly beside the point. For the question here is not whether we have a right to listen, but how that decision must be made: whether one man has the power to decide unchecked by anyone, or whether the rule of law applies.

I can't imagine any court denying the president the power he sought here, assuming it was indeed as limited as his aides are suggesting. They weren't listening to conversations between you and your Aunt Mary, my own friend and former Cheney aide Mary Matalan pointed out to me on Fox News' "Hannity and Colmes."

In fact, no one was asking the president to run down to the local magistrate at the corner and get a warrant, the way the FBI would be required to do in a routine criminal case. Instead, under a 1978 law, Congress has established secret courts for just this purpose, to facilitate granting secret war-

rants for surveillance in national security cases.

Under the president's theory, if all power resides in the executive for protecting national security, it would follow that the 1978 law requiring warrants is unconstitutional. Isn't Congress, by the president's theory, overstepping its authority? Yet no one has ever suggested that, which may be one reason why the non-partisan Congressional Research Service has rejected the president's theory.

Indeed, under the president's approach, were Congress to pass a law to deal with precisely the situation here, to ensure that it was al-Qaida and not Aunt Mary, and that the "war" did not become a talisman to get all of Google's records in the process, that law would be unconstitutional on its face as an invasion of presidential power under Article II. Yet that cannot be right, unless Article II's grant of executive power is read to create the equivalent of a monarchy, in which the leader not only enforces the law, but also makes it and reviews it.

No one is questioning the importance of the war on terror. But we are in Iraq, I thought, in part to bring democracy and the rule of law to people who have never known either. We don't further that goal by ignoring it at home. There has been no showing that compliance with existing law would in any way have hampered our efforts. The problem prior to

9-11 was not that courts blocked surveillance, but that no one asked. The problem with the Bush approach is that there is no check and no balance on the decisions of the executive, no "law" to limit the decisions of the executive or ensure that they are limiting themselves.

Not long ago, I debated Professor John Yoo, the brilliant former Justice Department official who is the author of the administration's "unitary executive" theory, at the University of Houston. Yoo argued that because we are at war against al-Qaida, the usual rules of criminal law about unreasonable searches and seizures and the requirements of warrants did not apply. So what about the Geneva Convention, I asked. No, replied Yoo, because al-Qaida was not a sovereign state that didn't apply, either. In other words, there was no law, to the extent that we think of law as an external and objective limit — the law was whatever rules our military or our executive chose to follow, or not.

The White House may be withholding pictures of the president and Jack Abramoff, but that Republican crisis is also a challenge to the rule of law. Average Americans have every reason to wonder if they are the only ones who must play by the rules. Why give them one more?

To find out more about Susan Estrich, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com.

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SUSAN ESTRICH

Birdwell Lane Baptist

Plans are being made for a Valentine Banquet Feb. 12 in the fellowship hall. Sunday worship services are at 10:55 a.m. and 5 p.m. Midweek service is at 7 p.m. For more information, call 267-7157 or 267-8214.

First Presbyterian Church

The Rev. Matthew Miles will preach on text taken from Mark 1:21-28 at worship service on Sunday. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and Take 10 is at 10:35 a.m. Worship follows at 11 a.m.

A covered dish luncheon is scheduled after church Sunday. Members are advised to bring their favorite covered dish and stay for lunch. The budget for 2006 will be presented at the luncheon.

Other activities for the week include Bible study at 5:17 p.m. Wednesday, youth group is at 5 p.m. and choir practice is at 6 p.m. also Wednesday. Plans are being finalized for the youth group to go to Prude Ranch the first weekend in February.

First Presbyterian Church is located on Runnels between Seventh and Eighth streets.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. The 2006 Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin is Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. Annual reports and elections are on the agenda. For more information about St. Mary's Episcopal Church, call 267-8201 or visit www.stmarysbt.org. St. Mary's is located at 1001 S. Goliad.

First Baptist Church

The Stamps Quartet is performing at the church Saturday at 7 p.m. and Feb. 19, the Singing Women of West Texas will share at 6 p.m. No tickets are needed for these concerts. Love offerings will be taken.

The Family Life Center is open Thursday evenings for families to enjoy. Bowling, ping pong, air hockey, basketball and other activities are available between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Iglesia de Cristo

Iglesia de Cristo Anderson y Green, con Predicador, Miguel Bustillos. Domingos servicios 10 a.m., Miercoles 7 p.m. Telefonos 432-689-6374 y 432-684-7852. Ofrecemos estudios bib-

licos en su hogar sin costo ni obligacion.

McGee Chapel

New leaders are Bennie and Debra Johnson. Sunday school is 10:30 a.m. and morning worship is 11:30 a.m. Wednesday service is 7:30 p.m. The church is located at 1000 N.W. Third St. For more information, call 267-6605 or 325-944-4891.

Life Church

There are two contemporary worship services Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Children's ministry is provided during both services, such as Noah's Ark for children age 0-3, Zoe Land for children age 4-9 and God's Squad for preteens age 10-12.

Church meets Wednesday at 7 p.m. Small groups, including college, young adults and senior high meet throughout the week.

Bean's World Café is open for business at the Boxcar in downtown Big Spring.

For more information, call 432-263-7714. Life Church is located at 600 E. FM 700.

New Covenant

Sunday morning worship services are 11 a.m.; the doors open at 10:30 a.m.

The church is located at 1607 E. Third street. For more information, call 264-0015 or e-mail nccwcl@yahoo.com.

Cornerstone Church

Worship service begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday and The Rev. Craig Felty presents Back to the Basics, "The secret success they don't want you to know" Sunday at 11 a.m.

Children in kindergarten through fourth grade are invited to Sunday children's activities.

Childcare is available for newborns through preschool.

The church is located at 12th and Owens streets. Call 263-3072 with any questions.

Spring Tabernacle Church

Spirit-filled renewal services are set to begin at 8 p.m. today and continue at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Speakers from northern Canada include Frank Peterson, Albert Hannigan and Terry Miller of Sharon Schools and Children's Homes out of North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

This event is sponsored by Global Missions International. Spring Tabernacle is located at 1209 Wright St., off Highway 80 West.

The Rev. Arnold and Mona Lou Tonn are the pastors. For more information, contact the church at 267-5321.

College Baptist Church

Tara Leigh Cobble will be in concert presenting "Things You Can't Stop With Your Hands" at 6 p.m. Feb. 5. The concert is free and a love offering will be taken.

The church, located at 1105 Birdwell Lane, offers Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and Sunday worship services at 11 a.m. Evening worship is at 6 p.m. Sunday and a Bible study meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

For more information, call 267-7429.

Friends of Unity

Teachers who help each other open up to the fullness and wholeness of life in Christ gather at the Center to share. Sunday, the Rev. Jim Sims will lead the traditional Unity service at 1 p.m. This is a special, once-a-month, time to which all Truth Seekers are invited.

Other group growing times are noon Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at noon and 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Salem Baptist Church

Sunday school is at 10 a.m. and the morning service is at 11 a.m. This week there is a special evening service of worship music beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday. A fellowship

meal will follow the service. Nursery services are available at all services. The Wednesday evening service is at Parkplace at 6 p.m. Contact the church office at 394-4655 for further information.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worship services are at 9 a.m., Sunday school is at 10:15 a.m., Wednesday services are at 6:45 p.m. Evening prayer Bible studies are: Monday at 7 p.m., Genesis; Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., "Hebrews;" Wednesday at noon, "Lord, I want to know you;" Friday at 6 a.m., "The case for Christ;" Sunday at 6 p.m., Acts.

Call 267-7163 for locations.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League has cookbooks for sale for \$10. Sunday is the fifth Sunday. This will be "Talent Sunday." There will be songs, poems and other talents.

Plans are to buy a church bus.

Berea Baptist Church

Sunday, Berea Baptist members will observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper during the morning worship service.

The worship theme is "Preparing for Worship." Following the morning service is a potluck lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Sunday afternoon at 1:30

p.m. is a Fifth Sunday Singing. This afternoon singing service replaces the regular Sunday evening service.

The church is located at 4204 Wasson Road. Service times are Sunday Bible Study at 9:45 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m.; evening worship at 6 p.m.

Youth meet for a mid-week Bible study Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Adults also meet Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. for Bible study and prayer.

The church office is open from 9 a.m. until noon Monday through Thursday.

For more information, call 267-8438.

Due to the tremendous response, we're continuing our **Clean Sweep Sale** now through the end of the month!

Come in and see for yourself the tremendous markdowns throughout the store!

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**Big Spring Independent School District
Financial Statement for the Year Ending
August 31, 2005**

	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
Local and Intermediate Sources	\$10,323,613	\$993,530	\$11,317,143
State Program Revenues	10,956,610	1,062,857	12,019,467
Federal Program Revenues	88,496	4,027,464	4,115,960
Total Revenues	\$21,368,719	\$6,083,851	\$27,452,570
EXPENDITURES:			
Current			
Instruction	\$12,354,579	\$2,549,495	\$14,904,074
Instructional Resources and Media Services	357,475	29,798	387,273
Curriculum and Staff Development	137,021	315,831	452,852
Instructional Leadership	257,286	26,878	284,164
School Leadership	1,320,039	14,363	1,334,402
Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	665,834	228,847	894,681
Social Work Services	28,101	17,244	45,345
Health Services	213,446	4,838	218,284
Student Transportation	543,500	8,144	551,644
Food Services		1,888,990	1,888,990
Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	959,482	3,951	963,433
General Administration	780,677	3,329	784,006
Plant Maintenance and Operations	3,215,715	27,886	3,243,601
Security and Monitoring Services	25,478		25,478
Data Processing Services	433,535	221,981	655,516
Principal on Long-term Debt	70,000	370,000	440,000
Interest on Long-term Debt	12,273	571,133	583,406
Bond Issuance Costs and Fees	300	63	363
Total Expenditures	\$21,374,741	\$6,282,771	\$27,657,512
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures			
	(\$6,022)	(\$198,920)	(\$204,942)
Other Financing Sources and (Uses):			
Transfers In		\$150,005	\$150,005
Other Resources	3,601		3,601
Transfers Out	(150,005)		(150,005)
Total Other Financing Sources and (Uses)	(\$146,404)	\$150,005	\$3,601
Net Charge in Fund Balance	(\$152,426)	(\$48,915)	(\$201,341)
Fund Balances - Beginning (September 1, 2004)	4,549,908	250,615	4,800,523
Prior Period Adjustment	20,845		20,845
Fund Balances - Ending (August 31, 2005)	\$4,418,327	201,700	4,620,027

WEAR RED
Get in **FREE**

Hawks vs. South Plains

Support the Hawks... Pack the Coliseum

Monday, Jan. 30
Women's game starts at 5:50 p.m.
Men's game starts at 7:50 p.m.
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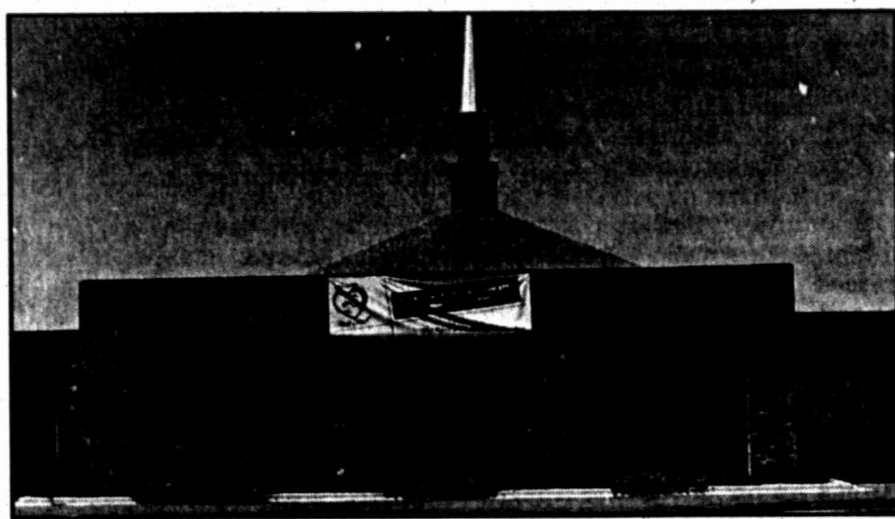
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Big Spring Coahoma
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It is good to give thanks
to the Lord, to sing
praises to the Most High.

Psalm 92: 1

First Church Of The Nazarene



1400 Lancaster 267-7015

Byron Brown, Pastor

ADVENTIST

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
4319 Parkway 267-5381

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4th & Lancaster 267-7971
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2205 GOLIAD 267-2111

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AIRPORT BAPTIST
1208 Frazier St. 263-7451

BAPTIST TEMPLE
400 11th Place 267-8287

BEREA BAPTIST
4204 Wesson Rd. 267-8438

BIRDWELL LANE BAPTIST
1512 Birdwell Lane

CALVARY BAPTIST
1200 W. 4th. 263-4242

CENTRAL BAPTIST
Elbow Community
COLLEGE BAPTIST
1105 Birdwell Lane 267-7429

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Gatesville Street

EAST FOURTH BAPTIST
401 East 4th 267-2291

EAST SIDE BAPTIST
1108 E. 6th 267-1915

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705 Marcy Drive 267-8223

FIRST BAPTIST
Knott

FIRST BAPTIST
201 South Ave., Coahoma

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Top-ranked Hawks extend winning streak to 20



Howard freshman Benny Valentine, who stands 5-7, goes up into a crowd of Odessa College defenders during action at the Odessa Sports Complex Thursday. The Hawks defeated the Wranglers, 78-66, and Valentine finished with a team-high 20 points.

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ODESSA — The Howard College men's basketball team won its 20th straight game Thursday on the road against Odessa College, but took a step backwards in the eyes of head coach Mark Adams.

"It was one of the most disappointing games I have coached or been apart of this year," said Adams. "We definitely went backwards tonight."

The Hawks battled through adversity from Odessa's crowd and players and pulled out a 78-66 win,

but was whistled for two technical fouls and a flagrant foul on Herve Banogle, which ultimately led to his ejection.

"We lost our composure tonight and didn't do very well in this environment," said Adams.

The Odessa student section was alive and well in the contest, shouting out such phrases as "Where's Rodgers," in reference to Howard sophomore Louis Rodgers, who missed his second game after being suspended by the team, and "Tech don't want you," which referred to Charles Burgess, who will play basketball at Texas Tech next season after signing a letter of intent in November.

It was Burgess, however, who got the last laugh in the game as it was his 3-pointer with 1:30 to play which sealed the win for

the top-ranked and undefeated Hawks.

Howard, which improved to 4-0 inside of Western Junior College Athletic Conference play, controlled the first half. After falling behind 6-0 to start the game, the Hawks went on a 20-3 run to grab a commanding 11-point lead. The run featured five points from sophomore Richard Forbes and Burgess and 10 of the 20 points came inside the lane.



The lead did not grow to more than 12 points for the Hawks as they led 36-24 at the break.

Freshman Benny Valentine, who finished with a game-high 20 points, finished the half with a 3-pointer and a layup, but the points were sandwiched in between a technical foul called on Howard freshman Bougari Konate and two technical free throws from Odessa College.

"We gave up more points than we like to give up, but I think that was mainly because we put them on the foul line too much," said Adams. "Our defense wasn't bad for the most part."

The two teams played an even 42-42 game in the second 20 minutes. The Hawks got up by 16 early in the second half on two free throws by Burgess and a layup by freshman Phil Murphy. They went ahead by 16 on two other

See HOWARD, Page 2B

Big Spring Little League elect new officers

The Big Spring Little League will hold a meeting to elect new officers Sunday at the Howard County Library.

The meeting will start at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Chuck Rosenbaum at 263-1792.

Howard announces wear red promotion

The Howard College athletic department will again be implementing a "wear red" get in free during the Hawk men and women's next home game against rival South Plains. Anyone wearing red to the game will get in free of charge.

The game will take place Monday at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum. The women's game will begin at 6:50 p.m. and the top-ranked Hawk men's team will tip off around 7:50 p.m.

Also getting into the game free will be any student who currently attends Bauer Magnet School. Several elementary schools will have the chance to get in free this year as part of another Howard promotion.

Struggling Wolves shake up roster, deal Szczerbiak

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The struggling Minnesota Timberwolves shook up their roster, sending swingman Wally Szczerbiak to the Boston Celtics for guard Ricky Davis in an exchange involving seven players and three draft picks.

Davis, center Mark Blount, point guard Marcus Banks, forward Justin Reed and two conditional second-round draft picks are going to Minnesota. Boston is getting Szczerbiak, centers Michael Olowokandi and Dwayne Jones and a future first-round draft pick.

Indiana's O'Neal to miss eight weeks

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Jammie O'Neal is expected to miss at least eight weeks with a left groin tear, leaving the Indiana Pacers without their leading scorer and rebounder.

Kubick signs contract in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — Gary Kubick returned to the Houston Rockets.

Kubick reportedly signed a contract worth about \$10 million.

Turnovers spoil Howard's bid at upset against No. 3 Odessa

By TROY HYDE

Sports Editor

ODESSA — Twenty-seven turnovers plagued the Howard College women's basketball team Thursday on the road as the Hawks were unsuccessful in their attempt to knock off No. 3 Odessa, losing 76-53.

Howard (6-15) played tough early and only trailed 18-17, but a stretch of nothing but turnovers allowed the Lady Wranglers to push the lead to 33-19 with a 15-2 run.

"I think the difference



DIDDLE "We are doing a lot of good things, but we don't value the ball enough right now and that will hurt anyone against a team like Odessa."

The Hawk women managed to cut the halftime deficit to 10 with a 6-2 run to end the half.

Sophomore Latoya Fairley had four of those six points and freshman Kim Gilyard added a layup.

"Latoya did a nice job for us inside," said Diddle.

Gilyard trimmed into the deficit again to start the second half as her 3-point play made it 35-28. A Fairley layup moments later kept the margin at seven, but the Lady Wranglers began to slowly pull away after that.

Howard scored back-to-back baskets later in the half to keep the Hawk women within 11 points, but they trailed by 17 with 11:26 to play.

"(Odessa's) a good team," said Diddle. "They are really athletic and they were able to push the ball on us and hit some big shots."

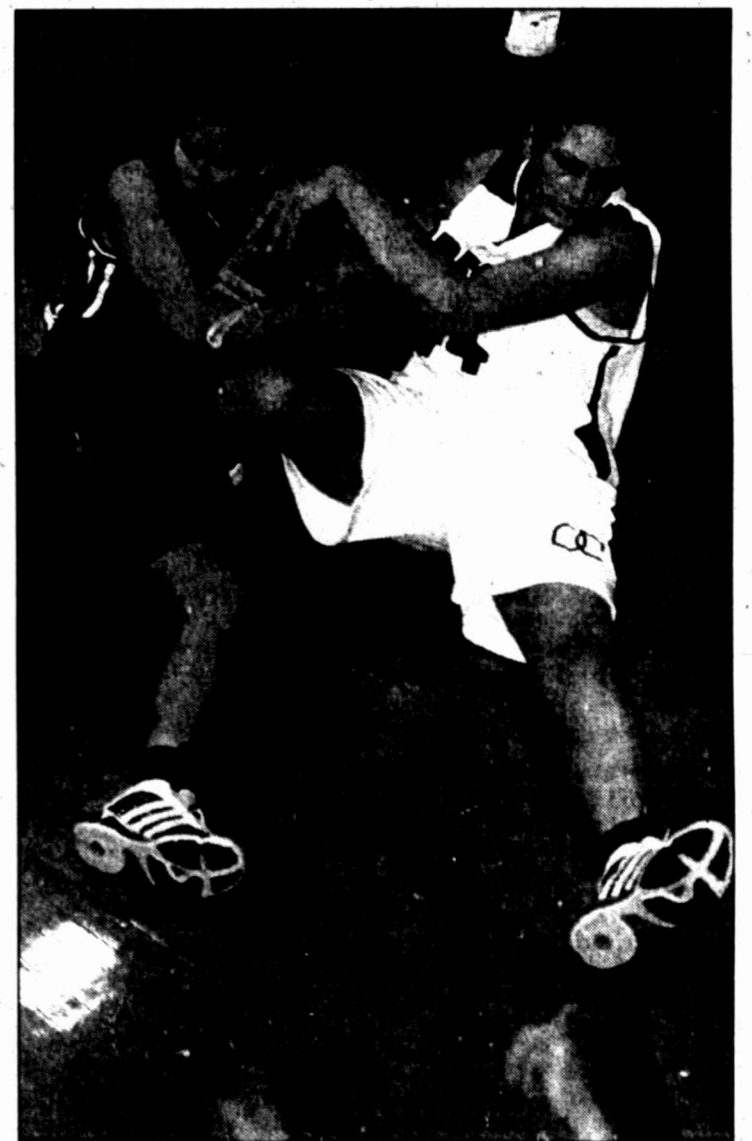
The lead for Odessa, which improved to 19-0 on the season following the win, pushed the lead to 24 at one point before Howard tried to get back in it. The Hawk women outscored Odessa 9-4 during the mini-run and cut the lead to 19 with 2:49 to go, but the Lady Wranglers extended the lead to 23 before the final buzzer sounded.

Fairley led the Hawk women with 20 points and nine rebounds, while Pena and Gilyard also reached double-figures. Pena finished with 14 points and three steals, while Gilyard added 10 points, four assists and two steals.

The Lady Wranglers



Howard sophomore Jennifer Pena dribbles through two Odessa College defenders during action at the Odessa Sports Center Thursday. Pena scored 14 points and had three steals, but No. 3 Odessa College improved 19-0 on the season with a 76-53 victory.



Howard College freshman Kendra Mamey, left, forces a jump ball call from the official Thursday night in Odessa during the Hawk women's loss to the Lady Wranglers.

WJCAC Standings

Women		Men	
Odessa	4-0 19-0	Howard	4-0 20-0
Midland	3-1 18-4	South Plains	4-0 17-3
Clarendon	2-2 10-12	Midland	3-1 17-3
South Plains	1-2 14-4	Clarendon	2-2 11-6
Frank Phillips	1-2 13-6	Odessa	1-3 13-7
New Mexico	1-2 10-6	Frank Phillips	1-3 13-7
Howard	0-3 6-15	New Mexico	1-3 11-9
		NMSU	0-4 4-14

Thursday's Results
Odessa 78, Howard 53
Midland 81, New Mexico 73

Thursday's Results
Howard 78, Odessa 53

See HAWKS, Page 2B

HOWARD

Continued from Page 1B

occasions in the game as sophomore Dezmon Harris made a free throw and later hit a jumper.

Odessa College would come storming back, however. The Wranglers got to within six points with 7:40 to play after Sean Jackson converted a 3-point play. Banogle immediately put Howard back up by eight with a basket inside and then Burgess pushed the lead to nine with a jumper moments later.

"We struggled with our offense tonight," said Adams. "We had poor execution and became individuals and that to me is more disheartening than giving up 66 points."

Howard seemed to put the game out of reach with an 8-0 run after that as Harris followed a Valentine layup with a 3-point play and Burgess concluded the run with another 3-pointer with 4:16 to go in the game.

The Wranglers had other ideas, however, as they trimmed the deficit

to 11 after Banogle was whistled and ejected for a flagrant foul. Odessa converted five straight free throws to make it 71-60 with just more than three minutes to go in the game.

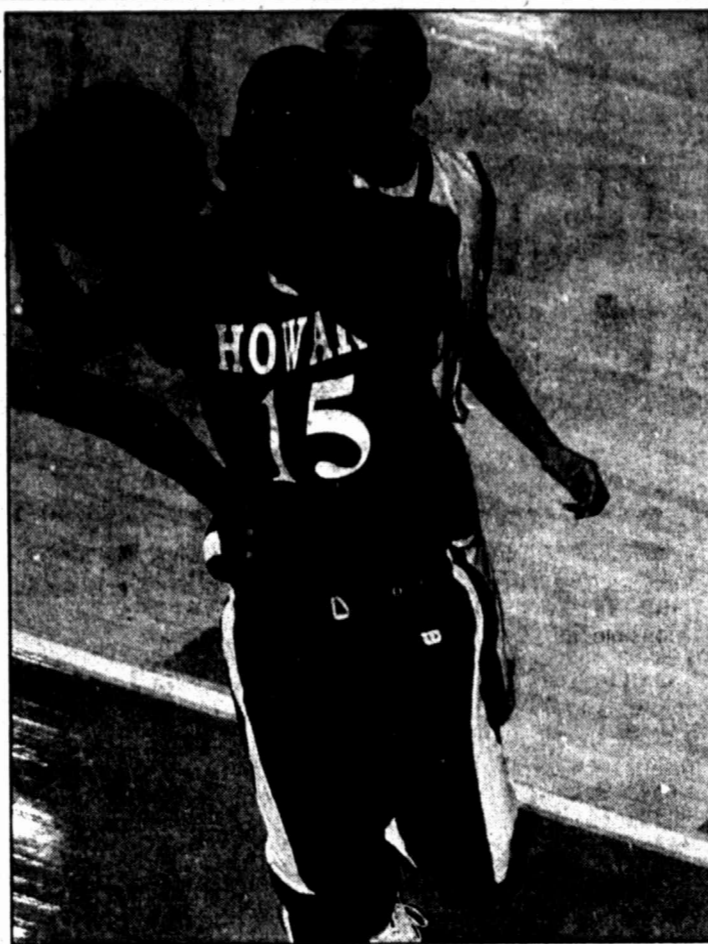
Odessa wouldn't get any closer than that the rest of the way as Burgess' big 3-pointer with 1:30 to go made it a 16-point Howard lead and Konate finished off the Wranglers with a basket inside.

Burgess went three-for-five from 3-point range and scored 19 points on the night. He also added four assists, three rebounds and two steals. Harris finished with 13 points, four rebounds and five steals.

Murphy added nine points and four rebounds, while Forbes scored nine points and had three assists.

Odessa College was led by Darion Davis' 15 points and six rebounds, while Jackson added 13 points and eight rebounds. DeMarcus Bell also reached double-figures with 14 points.

The Hawks will host South Plains Monday beginning at 7:50 p.m.



HERALD photo/Troy Hyde
Howard College sophomore Dezmon Harris scores on a layup during action at the Odessa Sports Center Thursday. Harris scored 14 points and No. 1 Howard won the game.

South Plains remained undefeated in conference play Thursday after taking down Clarendon College, 92-68.

HAWKS

Continued from Page 1B

won the game with balanced scoring as Ashley Ingle and Chandra Jones each scored 15 points to lead the way. Dina Pkerniece added 14 and Helen Roden scored 12.

The Hawk women played the game without two starters. Freshman Chanel Jones-Delas did

not play because "she hadn't been going to class," according to Diddle.

Freshman Tomisha Martin missed her second straight game and has been suspended indefinitely for conduct detrimental to the team. Jones-Delas should return to the lineup when Howard takes on South Plains at the Dorothy Coliseum Monday.

Upcoming area basketball games

- Tonight**
 Andrews @ Big Spring, 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
 Coahoma @ Stamford, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 Forsan @ Wink, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 Grady @ Garden City, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
 Sands @ Dawson, 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Monday**
 South Plains @ Howard, 5:50 p.m. and 7:50 p.m.

No surprise: Federer reaches final

By PAUL ALEXANDER

Associated Press Writer
MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer advanced to the Australian Open final Friday by beating Nicolas Kiefer 6-3, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2.

Federer was sharp in beating the German for the seventh consecutive time. The six-time Grand Slam champion will face underdog Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus in Sunday's final.

The Swiss star broke Kiefer early in the first set to go up 3-1, at one point sprinting from the baseline for a drop shot and flicking a backhand

around the post and down the line for a clean winner.

In the same game, Federer reached another drop shot and sent a lob over Kiefer's head that the German hit long.

Kiefer won the second set after breaking Federer at 5-6.

The German wasted his first opportunity with a weak forehand into the net, but Federer sliced a backhand wide on the next.

Federer committed only two unforced errors, in the third set — after 26 in the first two sets — to retake control. With Federer serving at 5-0,

Kiefer saw his only break point vanish on a shot that was called long but that TV replays showed was on the line.

Kiefer held serve to start the final set, but Federer then won five straight games.

Kiefer saved two match points while serving at 1-5, then a third as Federer served in the next game. Federer finished it off with a serve that Kiefer whacked into the net.

Swiss flag T-shirts were scattered around Rod Laver Arena, and the crowd was clearly behind Federer against the testy Kiefer, who repeatedly questioned calls.

Double whammy: Lady Vols lose 2nd straight

By JEFFREY McMURRAY

Associated Press Writer
LEXINGTON, Ky. — Losing to the nation's No. 2 team is one thing. Losing to an unranked rival coached by a former pupil is something else.

No. 1 Tennessee has done both in four days, dropping to Kentucky 66-63 on Thursday night — an unpleasant encore to its 22-point loss Monday against No. 2 Duke.

"This team should not have lost back-to-back games," Tennessee coach Pat Summitt said. "Kentucky was better tonight. This team has to understand that they just can't go out there and play. They have to execute a game plan and be mindful of one possession at a time on offense and defense."

A week ago, Summitt — the winningest coach in college basketball history — was celebrating career victory No. 900 against Vanderbilt. She's now 0-2 in her quest for No. 901. The loss came at the

hands of Kentucky coach Mickie DeMoss, who spent 18 years as an assistant under Summitt.

"This was a great win for this team and this program," DeMoss said. "I thought I was sitting here in a dream."

Never had Kentucky beaten a No. 1 team, and the previous 24 matchups between the Wildcats and Lady Vols were won by Tennessee.

Tennessee (18-2, 4-1 Southeastern Conference) hadn't dropped consecutive games since February 1997 against LSU and Louisiana Tech. It also was the Lady Vols' first loss to an unranked team since March 2, 2002, against LSU in the SEC tournament.

Before the game, DeMoss honored her mentor with a basketball dipped in the wax found on a Maker's Mark bottle. Afterward, Summitt congratulated DeMoss.

"I told her I was really proud of her," Summitt said.

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djackson@caithnessenergy.com
Resumes must be received by January 31, 2006 to be considered.

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FRIDAY

	WFAA (2)	KMID (3)	UNI (4)	KPEJ (5)	KOSA (7)	KTLE (8)	KWES (9)	WTBS (11)	KMLM (12)	KOCV (13)	DISC (20)	AMC (21)	SPIKE (22)	TNT (23)	BET (26)	DISN (27)	ESPN2 (28)	ESPN (29)	SCIFI (64)
6	PM News (CC)	News (CC)	Plat de Oloro	My Wife-Kids Raymond	News Ent. Tonight	La Tormenta	News Be a Millionaire Raymond	Raymond	N. McBride John Hagee	News-Lahrer	Pharaoh-Reven.	Hustle	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Law & Order (CC) (DVS)	Live BET.com	Zack & Cody Emperor New	With Smith Boxing: Friday	NBA Basketball: (CC)	John Doe (CC)
7	PM Fighting for Life	Dancing-Stars Hope & Faith	Contra Viento y Marea	Bernie Mac Bernie Mac	Ghost Whisperer	El Cuerpo del Deseso	Outrageous	Movie: Spider-Man (CC)	Update/Israel Alan Granger	Wash. Week NOW (CC)	Quest for the Lost Pharaoh	Movie: The River Wild	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)	Movie: The Patriot (CC) (DVS)	Girlfriends	Movie: The Princess Diaries	-- Mora vs. Ouna	Cleveland Cavaliers at Stargate SG-1 (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
8	PM In Justice (CC)	In Justice (CC)	Alborada	Trading Spouses	Close to Home (CC)	Conazon Part Decisiones	DateLine NBC (CC)	Light of the Southwest		Sci. Frontiers Travis Smiley	Nefertiti Resurrected		CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC) (DVS)		Movie: Beef III		Tennis: Australian Open --	Indiana Pacers at Stargate SG-1 (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
9	PM 20/20 (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Gilberto Glesos Los Parpajos	My Wife-Kids 70s Show	NUMB3RS (CC)	Decisiones	The Book of Daniel (CC)	40 Movie: Back to the Future (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Manor House (CC)	Nefertiti Resurrected	15 Movie: Friday the 13th: Part VI: Jason Lives		Movie: Windtalkers		The Emperor's New School	Australian Open --	Basketball: Timberwolves at Rockets	Battlestar Galactica
10	PM News (CC)	News Nightline	Primer Impacto Noticias Univ.	70s Show Raymond	News Late Show-	Not-Telemundo Boxeo	News Tonight Show	Back to the Future (CC)	The Hour of Healing	Charlie Rose (CC)	Pharaoh-Reven.	13th, Part VI: Jason Lives		Movie: Windtalkers	In Living Color in Living Color	That's-Raven That's-Raven	Women's Final Quite Frankly	Stargate SG-1 (CC)	
11	PM Ent. Tonight Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)	Movie: La Sangre de un Valiente	Becker (CC) Malcolm-Mid.	Letterman Late Late	Telemundo	Late Night: Conan O'Brien Seinfeld (CC)	Family Guy Futurama	CCM Ministries Sam Peak	Sign Off	Quest for the Lost Pharaoh	Friday the 13th: Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan	CSI: Crime Scene Investig. (CC)		Jamie Foxx Mead Sports	Phil of Future ESPN Holly	With Smith ESPN Holly	SportsCenter (CC)	Stargate SG-1 (CC)
12	AM Live (CC)	Extra (CC)	Valiente	Becker (CC) King of the Hill Show	Late Late	Sabia Ustard Pagado	Conan O'Brien Seinfeld (CC)	Family Guy Futurama	Update/Israel Dinah Christian		Nefertiti Resurrected	Takes Manhattan	MXC Blind Date	Movie: Three	BET After Dark	Lizzie McGuire	Boxing: Friday - Mora vs.	NFL Live Gamernight!	Battlestar Galactica

DENNIS THE MENACE



"ORANGE JUICE SURE TAKES ALL THE WORK OUT OF EATIN' ORANGES."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

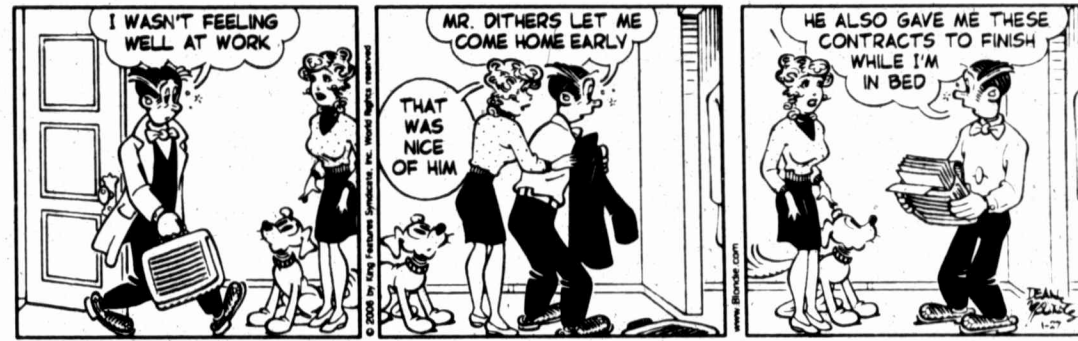


"How many days left before I'm all grown up?"

HAGAR



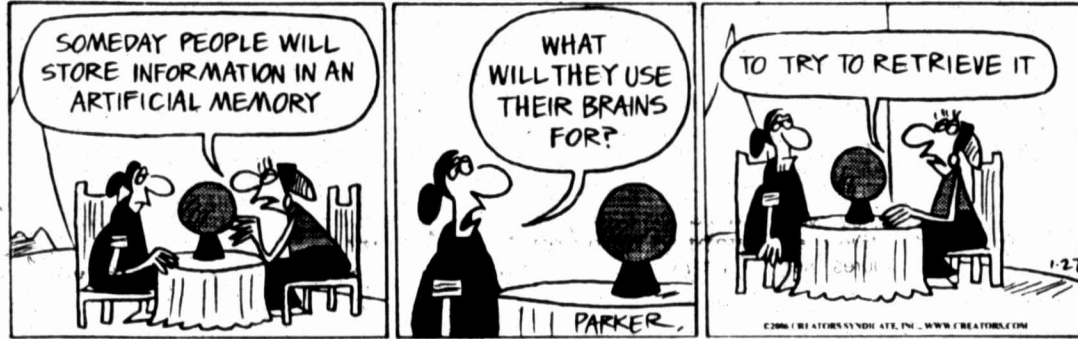
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WIZARD OF ID



AGNES



HI AND LOIS



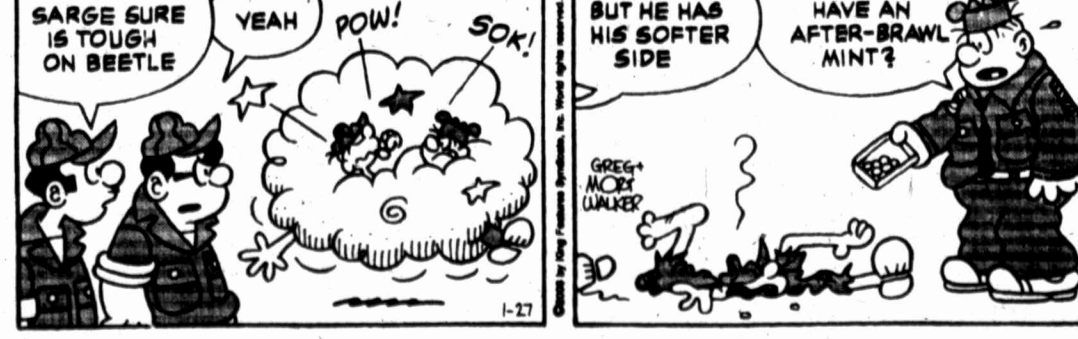
THE OTHER COAST



SNUFFY SMITH



BETLE BAILEY



This Date In History

Today is Friday, Jan. 27, the 27th day of 2006. There are 338 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on Jan. 27, 1756, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria.

On this date:

In 1880, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric incandescent lamp.

In 1901, opera composer Giuseppe Verdi died in Milan, Italy, at age 87.

In 1943, some 50 bombers struck Wilhelmshaven in the first all-American air raid against Germany during World War II.

In 1944, the Soviet Union announced the end of the deadly German siege of Leningrad, which had lasted for more than two years.

In 1945, Soviet troops liberated the Nazi concentration camps Auschwitz and Birkenau in Poland.

In 1951, an era of atomic testing in the Nevada desert

began as an Air Force plane dropped a one-kiloton bomb on Frenchman Flats.

In 1967, astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Edward H. White and Roger B. Chaffee died in a flash fire during a test aboard their Apollo 1 spacecraft at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

In 1967, more than 60 nations signed a treaty banning the orbiting of nuclear weapons.

In 1973, the Vietnam peace accords were signed in Paris.

In 1981, President Reagan greeted the 52 former American hostages released by Iran.

One year ago: Frail survivors and humbled world leaders remembered the victims of the Holocaust as they marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Bobby "Blue" Bland is 76. Actor James Cromwell is 66. Actor John Witherspoon is 64. Rock musician Nick Mason (Pink Floyd) is 61. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nedra Talley (The Ronettes) is 60. Ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov is 58. Country

singer Cheryl White is 51. Country singer-musician Richard Young (The Kentucky Headhunters) is 51. Actress Mimi Rogers is 50. Rock musician Gillian Gilbert is 45. Actress Bridget Fonda is 42. Actor Alan Cumming is 41. Country singer Tracy Lawrence is 38. Rock singer Mike Patton is 38. Rapper Tricky is 38. Rock musician Michael Kulas (James) is 37. Actor Josh Randall is 34. Country singer Kevin Denney is 30.

Thought for Today: "Who never doubted, never half believed, where doubt is, there truth is — it is her shadow." — Gamaliel Bailey, American abolitionist (1807-1859).

© 2005 The Associated Press.

Answer to previous puzzle

S	P	O	R	T	B	E	D	S	S	N	O	W
W	A	V	E	R	I	V	A	N	C	O	D	A
A	D	E	L	E	S	E	R	E	R	I	S	
B	U	R	I	E	D	T	R	E	A	S	U	R
S	A	F	E	I	R	E	K	E	N			
I	V	E	G	O	T	A	S	E	C	R	E	T
A	L	L	E	T	R	I	H	E	M	I		
N	I	L	E	C	O	E	N	D	F	I	E	
K	L	E	E	A	L	I	A	R	A	W	A	R
H	I	D	D	E	N	A	G	E	N	D	A	S
U	N	O	N	I	A	S	H	A	G			
L	A	C	O	N	F	I	D	E	N	T	I	A
I	O	T	A	L	A	T	E	O	R	O	N	O
S	L	O	T	A	V	E	R	T	E	N	D	S
M	A	Z	E	W	E	D	S	E	L	S	E	S

Newsday Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bird stomachs
 - 5 Acid used to stain microscope slides
 - 10 One might be in evidence
 - 14 Carrier since 1948
 - 15 Country singer Carter
 - 16 Workout reminder
 - 17 Caramel candy on a stick
 - 19 Shoe stretcher
 - 20 One-celled creatures
 - 21 Preference, so to speak
 - 23 Ukr., formerly
 - 24 Turn the other way
 - 26 New York tennis stadium
 - 27 '92 presidential candidate
 - 29 Typo list
 - 33 Mr. Bill's cry
 - 36 Coin since 2002
 - 38 One in the weasel family
 - 39 Shows sorrow
 - 41 Sire's counterpart
 - 42 IQ test developer
 - 43 "Sleep" word starter
 - 44 Lummoxes
 - 46 May honorees
 - 47 Parodies
 - 49 Drum rattler
 - 51 D.C. baseballers, briefly
 - 53 "Sweet" girl of song
 - 54 Hale, for one
- DOWN**
- 1 Southwest sights
 - 2 Reunion attendees
 - 3 Perfecta or exacta
 - 4 Thick chunk
 - 5 More than likely
 - 6 Caribbean, e.g.
 - 7 Anti-DWI org.
 - 8 Chief of the Vedic gods
 - 9 Indian pony
 - 10 Scythe wielder
 - 11 Real-estate measure
 - 12 Sonny's '60s partner
 - 13 Platforms named for their shape
 - 18 Tear down
 - 22 Beat
 - 25 Cream-colored cheese
 - 27 Outdoor-arena event
 - 28 Plumbers' concerns
 - 30 47, for silver: Abbr.
 - 31 Bé prolific
 - 32 They may be lively or liberal
 - 33 Has title to
 - 34 Jalopy
 - 35 Rex's sleuth
 - 37 Forebodings
 - 40 Up to a certain point
 - 45 Lizardlike
 - 48 Repelled, with "off"
 - 50 Spin-fishing need
 - 52 Steps over a fence
 - 54 1:62,500, e.g.
 - 55 Chrysalides
 - 56 Matzoh's lack
 - 57 Psyche parts
 - 58 Broke down
 - 59 Secluded spot
 - 60 Daredevil Knieval
 - 62 Duration
 - 65 "I'll take that as..."

Golf Insider

By T.J. TOMASI

SCHEDULE

**All Times EST
PGA TOUR
Buick Invitational**

- Site: San Diego.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Courses: Torrey Pines, South Course (7,604 yards, par 72) and North Course (6,874 yards, par 72).
- Purse: \$5.1 million. Winner's share: \$918,000.
- Television: USA (Thursday-Friday, 3-6 p.m.) and CBS (Saturday, 3-6 p.m.; Sunday, 3-6:30 p.m.).

**CHAMPIONS TOUR
Turtle Bay Championship**

- Site: Kahuku, Hawaii.
- Schedule: Friday-Sunday.
- Course: Turtle Bay Resort, Arnold Palmer Course (7,044 yards, par 72).
- Purse: \$1.5 million. Winner's share: \$225,000.
- Television: The Golf Channel (Friday, 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 1-3:30 a.m.; 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Monday, 1-3:30 a.m.).

**PGA EUROPEAN TOUR/
ASIAN TOUR
Qatar Masters**

- Site: Doha, Qatar.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Doha Golf Club (7,374 yards, par 72).
- Television: The Golf Channel (Thursday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-noon).

**NATIONWIDE TOUR
Panama Championship**

- Site: Panama City, Panama.
- Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
- Course: Panama Golf Club (7,042 yards, par 70).
- Purse: \$550,000. Winner's share: \$89,000.
- Television: None.

LPGA TOUR

- Next event: SBS Open at Turtle Bay, Feb. 16-18, Turtle Bay Resort, Arnold Palmer Course, Kahuku, Hawaii.

More LPGA Schedule

- Feb. 23-25: Fields Open, Ko Olina GC, Kapolei, Hawaii
- March 10-12: MasterCard Classic, Bosque Real CC, Mexico City
- March 16-19: Safeway International, Superstition Mountain G&CC, Superstition Mountain, Ariz.
- March 30-April 2: Kraft Nabisco Championship, Mission Hills CC (Dinah Shore Tournament Course), Rancho Mirage, Calif.
- April 13-15: LPGA Takefiji Classic, The Las Vegas CC, Las Vegas
- April 20-23: Atlanta Charity Championship, Eagle's Landing CC, Stockbridge, Ga.
- April 27-30: Ginn Clubs & Resorts Open, Reunion Resort & Club, Orlando, Fla.
- May 4-7: Franklin American Mortgage Championship, Vanderbilt Legends Club (Iron Horse Course), Franklin, Tenn.
- May 11-14: Michelob ULTRA Open, Kingsmill Resort & Spa, Williamsburg, Va.
- May 18-21: Sybase Classic, Wykagyl CC, New Rochelle, N.Y.
- May 25-28: LPGA Corning Classic, Corning CC, Corning, N.Y.
- June 2-4: ShopRite LPGA Classic, Seaview Marriott Resort & Spa (Bay Course), Galloway Township, N.J.
- June 8-11: McDonald's LPGA Championship, Bulls Rock GC, Havre de Grace, Md.
- June 22-25: Wegmans LPGA, Locust Hill CC, Pittsford, N.Y.
- June 29-July 2: U.S. Women's Open, Newport CC, Newport, R.I.
- July 6-9: HSBC Women's World Match Play Championship, Hamilton Farm GC, Gladstone, N.J.
- July 13-16: Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic, Highland Meadows GC, Sylvania, Ohio
- July 26-29: Evian Masters, Evian Masters GC, Evian-les-Bains, France
- Aug. 3-6: Weetabix Women's British Open, Royal Lytham & St. Annes, Lytham St. Annes, England
- Aug. 10-13: CN Canadian Women's Open, London Hunt and CC, London, Ontario
- Aug. 18-20: Safeway Classic, Columbia Edgewater CC, Portland, Ore.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR GAME



Tour pro Brian Watts has a repeating swing. Why? Because he's "on plane," a somewhat confusing term for many golfers. You can see it in these photos: A line drawn through the shaft points to the alignment aid on the ground in both positions, repeating the same angle Watts' club shaft had at address.

Consistency comes from staying 'on plane'

Brian Watts' swing displays two "on plane" swing positions, the first just before he reaches the top of his swing and the second just before the finish of his swing. All things being equal, we can assume that he stayed on the plane angle all the way through his swing. But what exactly does it mean to be "on plane?"

To be more consistent, your task is to return your club to the shaft angle of address when you make contact with the ball. Each club in your bag has a different shaft angle, so if you carry 14 clubs, you have 14 different swing plane angles.

Your 5-iron, assuming it's correctly soled, creates an angle with the ground of 62 degrees; your 9-iron has a shaft angle of 66 degrees. This means that your

ABOUT THE WRITER



Dr. T.J. Tomasi is director of instruction at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middletown, Conn. To ask him a question about golf, e-mail him at: TJinsider@aol.com.

swing with your 9-iron will be more upright than with your 5, and your 5-iron will be much more upright than your driver (55 degrees).

Thus, the angle of each swing is established by the club you choose for the shot, and each time you change clubs, the angle of your swing changes.

Don't worry: You don't have to consciously adjust your swing

because the correct progression of shaft angles is built into your clubs at the factory. But it is up to you to swing the club so that the shaft returns to the angle it had at address by impact.

So while the shaft angle is chosen for you, the swing plane angle is your own creation. It's what makes your swing, your swing.

In order to practice being on the plane angle, plant a shaft in the ground about 3 feet behind you on your toe line. Make sure it's at the exact angle of your club shaft at address (start with a 7-iron). Now take some practice swings in slow motion, stopping at the positions shown in the photos above to check that the angles of the two shafts match. Then tee up the ball and hit some shots where you feel as though your shafts match at both points.

BIRDIES AND BOGEYS

Beware of falling names

You hear a lot (especially on TV golf broadcasts) about the "name" player a teacher is working with, but what happens when the student dumps the teacher? You never hear about it from the teacher or the announcers unless it's the greatest breakup since Helen left Menelaus or, in our own time, Tiger and Butchie.

To improve your game, you want a teacher who prospers not on who else he teaches, but on how well he teaches you — and the two are not always the same. When choosing a teacher, if he insists on dropping names, be sure to investigate his failures, too.

Birdie Kim is a case in point. She originally worked with Bob Toski and climbed to the top of the Futures Tour. Then she left Toski for another famous teacher under the direction of whom she promptly fell



Tiger Woods (right) and swing coach Butch Harmon had a well-publicized split.

back to the bottom of the heap. She returned to Toski and won the U.S. Open. Now, when that famous teacher lists his accomplishments, he leaves out Birdie Kim. Successes

are trumpeted, failures kept in the closet.

Another is Paul Azinger who, in a burst of fanfare, went to a teacher who gets more air time than the Snoopy blimp. Zinger lost his wedge game (among other things) and went quietly back to his old teacher, who solved the problem, but you don't hear that story from anyone in the TV booth.

Kelley has a Blue Book that tells you what a used car is really worth. Too bad there isn't a golf instructor's blue book to tell you what a particular instructor is really worth minus the hype and the infomercials.

The big names make a lot of mistakes that are covered up by selective PR. Chances are your local PGA teaching pro is just as good as the teachers who fill up your TV screen — just as good and a lot less expensive.

TEENING OFF

Prepare, then don't care

Everybody struggles with this game from time to time, yet it's surprising that when you talk to students individually, they seem oblivious to that fact. They all think they are the only ones who go through tough times.

I'd like to share an e-mail I sent to a student of mine who plays for a living. She is a college All American whose swing works in practice but not in competition — not yet. She missed at tour school by one shot and has since put so much pressure on herself that every swing is like playing in the U.S. Open. This pressure must be shed if she is to become a champion.

"Hi, M.: Here's my Johnnie Cochran: 'Prepare, then don't care' — a key skill — must do this on every shot from now on — make it part of your routine.

"Golf is a game of opposites, and on the mental side, if you want something too much, you can't have it. You should want it enough to prepare and make the sacrifices, but once the preparation is done and you're on the course, you can't want it soooooo much that it interferes with you getting it. Se Ri Pak would be a case in point: Talent corrupted by expectations = an unsafe golf course.

"If you find yourself worried about the outcome of the shot, then you care too much. Step away and make your last thought, 'OK, I'm prepared to hit this shot, and wherever it goes ... it goes.'

"Now, if you are not prepared, if you haven't practiced, if your skills are rusty, then no amount of self-talk will prevent your subconscious from giving you a NO signal.

"But you are prepared, so remember that if the ball goes in the water, nobody dies. If it lands in the bunker, nobody is disgraced. If it flies OB, MistaKitty (her cat) and Max (her boyfriend) will still love you.

"This is the tough part of the game, but it can be learned. Senior tour players often report they are playing the best golf of their entire career — yes, the equipment helps, but I think it's because they have nothing to prove, no sponsors to placate, no 'what-will-they-think-of-me.' The golf course is a safe place for them now.

"Make the golf course a safe place for you — run your brain out there per 'The 30-Second Golf Swing' (my book), and relax."

DON'T MISS IT

Prize-winning practice

If you need to practice full swings, but you don't have the room, Don't Miss BirdieBall, the 2005 winner of the New Product Award at the 2005 PGA Merchandise Show. BirdieBall is a limited-flight practice golf ball that looks like a napkin ring, but flies like a golf ball. It has a range of about 40 yards and it spins, draws, fades and goes straight just like a golf ball, depending on your swing. More information is available at www.practicerange.com.



GOLF SPOKEN HERE

"STIMPMETER"

Invented by Edward Stimpson, it's a ramp down which the ball rolls then releases onto the green. The distance the ball rolls in feet is the "stimp reading," a measure of the speed of the greens.

THE GOLF DOCTOR

Long is slow, short is fast

Common wisdom says you should match your swing speed to your overall temperament. If you do things like talk, walk and eat very quickly, then your swing should be fast. If you're more glacier than avalanche, your swing tempo should be slow.

And while this advice can be true, it's not always true. Length of swing is a better benchmark than temperament when it comes to tempo.

A correctly crafted long swing made by a flexible golfer should be a slow swing, not in club head speed, but slow as in languid and smooth.

If you're not flexible, and especially if you have a large chest, your swing will be fast and bursting, meaning you have to attack the golf ball. Short swings should be fast swings.

And to follow the progression, medium-length swings should have medium tempos.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Sometimes when the wheels fall off, the axle follows."

— The announcer's comment after Korea bogied the 15th hole to cap a back nine collapse in this year's women's World Cup, won by Sweden.

ASK THE PRO

Q: Could you explain "Going back as far as you want on the line of flight"?

A: Example: A player hits a ball 45 degrees to the left into a hazard. He says he can go back on the line of flight the ball took from the tee to get in the hazard. In this case, the hazard was in the shape of a "C," and he had no relief to go backward because it would have left him in the hazard and with no shot in front.

What happens in this case and what are the options? — Tony, from the Web

A: There are two types of hazards: a lateral, marked in red, and a regular water hazard, marked in yellow. The options for the red hazard

are five, the options for the regular hazard are three, so his options depend on the type of water hazard.

But no matter which type of hazard he found, his interpretation of the options was incorrect.

Here's the rule:

"If a ball is in or is lost in a water hazard (whether the ball lies in water or not), the player may under penalty of one stroke:

"(a) Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or

"(b) Drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard directly

between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped; or

"(c) As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than (i) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or (ii) a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole."

If your friend hit into a regular hazard, his only reasonable option was to re-tee since he couldn't either play it from the water or drop safely

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